

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim



Gen. B.B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander, visits with a family enjoying Thanksgiving dinner at the Dexheim Dining Facility.

Families celebrate Thanksgiving

Story and photos by Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Just because many units supported by the 221st Base Support Battalion are deployed to Iraq didn't mean festivities weren't planned for the families and soldiers remaining throughout the community for Thanksgiving.

Dining facilities in both Wiesbaden and Dexheim offered Thanksgiving meals complete with turkey, ham, sweet potatoes, dressing, shrimp cocktail and more. But food wasn't the only item on the menu for the day. Both facilities offered a children's play area, movies and rides.

"We wanted to take away the stress and make it as relaxing as possible for the families to enjoy their holiday," said Lavon Peoples, director of the Directorate of Logistics for the BSB.

To add to the event, the 104th Area Support Group Marketing team contracted a film crew to tape holiday greetings from families to their loved ones deployed in Iraq during the Thanksgiving meals held at facilities throughout the ASG. With that, over 1,100

people enjoyed the food and activities at Wiesbaden while almost 400 people took advantage of the meal in Dexheim.

"The dining facility here actually closed when the 123rd Main Support Battalion deployed, but we were able to open it up specifically for the families that are here," said Rey Voisine, Area Support Team manager in Dexheim. With the help of the Directorate of Community Activities, DOL, the BSB and the 123rd Family Readiness Group, contractors and spouses were able to clean up the facility, decorate and prepare a Thanksgiving feast.

"We are really a remote area here, and it was important to be able to offer the families an alternative to staying home during the holiday," said Crickett LeMasters, Family Readiness Group leader for the 123rd. LeMasters helped plan and coordinate the meal as well as numerous children and family activities throughout the day to include arranging for a mini petting zoo for children.

Overall, hundreds of families got a chance to relax and enjoy the feast during the Thanksgiving holiday. Plans are already in the works for both facilities to offer a Christmas meal Dec. 24. Check out the next issue of the *Herald Union* for details.



Americans weren't the only ones enjoying a Thanksgiving meal. Bundeswehr soldiers took a break to enjoy the holiday meal at Dexheim's Dining Facility.



Justin Schneider, age 4, enjoys a ride on a pony outside the Dexheim Dining Facility. Free pony rides and a mini petting zoo were available for youth and families to enjoy during the facility's Thanksgiving dinner.

Unique German holiday activities abound

By Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The festive season is in full swing, filled with plenty of holiday parties, music and good food. And although it seems far away from home, Christmastime in Germany can be a unique and exciting experience.

Unlike anything in the United States, Christmastime is filled with Weihnachtsmärkte or Christkindlmärkte, better known as Christmas markets in Germany. From the last week of November until Christmas day, towns and cities throughout Germany host a variety of Christmas markets. While the smaller towns host their festivities for a day or weekend during this time, the larger cities host month-long Christmas markets filled with plenty of activities for the entire family.

In the larger cities such as Frankfurt and Cologne, one can spend an entire day (or two) browsing through hundreds of booths showcasing numerous items from house-

hold appliances, clothing and toys to unique Christmas ornaments and gifts. There are also plenty of rides suitable for the entire family at many of the larger markets.

Along with shopping opportunities there is also a wide variety of food to whet the appetite. Snacks such as fresh roasted chestnuts (Maronen) and Gingerbread treats (Lebkuchen) are readily available as well as potato pancakes (Kartoffelpuffer), pork sandwiches and sausages (Würsts). To help wash down the many varieties of food and to keep the chill off be sure to try the Glühwein, a hot spiced-wine available at practically every Christmas market. For the children, and those not fond of wine, there is plenty of hot chocolate, apple juice and punch.

Dates, times and locations of Christmas Markets around the Wiesbaden area can be found below. For a complete listing of several large Christmas Markets throughout Germany visit www.wiesbaden.army.mil.

If taking a family drive to see



Photos by Cassandra Kardeke

Children take a spin on a carousel at the Wiesbaden Christmas market. See below for a listing of hours and locations of Christmas markets in the area.

homes and yards decorated for Christmas was a tradition back home, you can still do that in Germany. Besides the many homes that do decorate for the holidays, the town of Trohe, just 60 miles from

Wiesbaden, boasts over 250 homes and yards decorated with more than 650,000 lights. The town was placed in the Guinness Book of World Records in 2001 for their Christmas decorating. To get there take A-66



Frosted gingerbread hearts with messages of Christmas tidings hang from booths at many Christmas markets throughout the area.

toward Frankfurt, then A-5 toward Hannover/Kassel; A-45 toward Giessen/Wetzlar; A-485 toward Giessen/Marburg. Traffic personnel will direct traffic and parking upon the Trohe exit.

Christmas markets open throughout Germany

By Jolly Sienda
221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs
Office

It's Christmastime and Christmas markets are opening up throughout the area.

Just a short drive south of Wiesbaden in the town of Darmstadt is a festive Christmas market centered in the historic Marktplatz. Darmstadt, once a residence for Hessen counts and grand dukes, developed into the capital city of the German State of Hesse. After the destruction of World War II, Darmstadt was forced to relinquish its capital title to the city of Wiesbaden.

Visiting the historical Marktplatz at Christmastime is a feast for the eyes with a long tradition of Christmas cheer for both

children and adults. Darmstadt boasts one of the few life-size wooden pyramids, powered by candles (electric for outdoors). Heat rises and makes the windmill-like fans turn, which turns the ornaments on the pyramid in a complete circle. The ornaments can range from a nativity scene, a Santa Claus collage or a natural forest scene with deer and a German village. Wooden pyramids are handmade and the Darmstadt pyramid comes from the Erzgebirge Mountains. Many pyramids are made and sold for home use during the holidays at Christmas markets throughout Germany. The tradition of the German pyramid dates back to the 1800s in Erzgebirge where miners first created the folk art.

With the pyramid as the centerpiece, and

the historic Rathaus (City Hall) and palace in the background, the Christmas market houses individual wooden huts, decorated with fresh bows and twinkling lights. It's the perfect atmosphere to enjoy a cup of hot Glühwein (hot spiced wine), with friends or a bratwurst. Also at the market there is an assortment of Christmas ornaments, pottery, candles, wool clothing and other small gift novelties that just might make the perfect Christmas gift for someone special.

The Darmstadt Christmas Market is open until Dec. 23 and is located just off the Luisenplatz at the Marktplatz in downtown Darmstadt. The city can be easily reached off

of the A-67 or A-5 autobahns in the direction of Darmstadt. Take the Darmstadt Griesheim exit and follow the signs on B-26 Darmstadt to the Stadtmitte or city center.

Markets within commuting distance of Wiesbaden

Wiesbaden Weihnachtsmarkt: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Saturday and noon to 8 p.m. Sunday, located on the pedestrian zone between Luisenplatz

and Bonifatius church.

Mainz Weihnachtsmarkt: 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday, located at the Domplatz (historical market square around the cathedral).

Frankfurt Weihnachtsmarkt: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily; over 200 vendors, numerous events surround the symbol of the season, a



Looking for that special ornament to place on the tree? Check out the many Christmas markets in the area for just the right touch.

100-foot Christmas tree imported from Norway.

Bad Kreuznach Nikolausmarkt: 3-9 p.m. Monday to Friday and noon to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, located at the Eiermarkt in the old part of the city (Altstadt).

Rüdesheim am Rhein: 2-8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 2-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, located in the old part of Rüdesheim. This market is known as the Christmas Market of the Nations and represents 12 nations.



Photo by Jolly Sienda

Vendors with unique European gifts abound at Christmas markets in Germany.

Community news notes

Chapel highlights

Wiesbaden and Dexheim chapels host several special events during the holidays. **Hainerberg Chapel** hosts a holiday concert by the U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.; a Home School Christmas program from 5-10 p.m. Dec. 13; Protestant Candlelight service from 7-8 p.m. Dec. 24; Midnight Catholic Mass from 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Dec. 24; Children's Mass from 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 25; New Years Day Mass from 10-11 a.m. Jan. 1, 2004. **Wiesbaden Army Airfield Chapel** hosts a Gospel Youth Christmas from 1-6 p.m. Dec. 20 and a Gospel Watch Night Service from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 31. **Dexheim Chapel** hosts its Community Tree Lighting from 6-7 p.m. Dec. 11, Children's Mass from 5-6 p.m. Dec. 24 and a Carols and Readings service from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Dec. 24.

Commissary hours

Although normally closed Mondays, the Wiesbaden Commissary will be open Dec. 22 (the Monday before Christmas) and Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Dec. 29 (the Monday before New Year's Day) from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. It will be closed Dec. 25, 26 and Jan. 1.

Mailing deadlines

In order to ensure your packages reach their destination before Christmas packages and letters must be sent Priority mail by Dec. 11; express mail by Dec. 18.

Holiday caroling

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse

sponsors holiday caroling through Wiesbaden housing areas Dec. 17-18. Anyone interested in participating can meet at the Army Community Service cafeteria at 6:40 p.m. Dec. 17 for caroling in the Hainerberg and Aukamm housing areas or at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Community Activities Center Dec. 18 at 6:40 p.m. for caroling in Wiesbaden Army Airfield and Mainz-Kastel housing areas. For more information call mil 336-2473 or civ (0611) 816-2473.

Christmas basketball tourney

The Tony Bass Fitness Center hosts a Unit Level Christmas Basketball tournament Dec. 15-19. Cost is \$100 per team. Call mil 337-5943/5541 or civ (0611) 705-5943/5541.

New Year's Eve party

Not sure where to go to ring in the new year? Join the party at the Victory Point Bar in the Community Activities Center on Wiesbaden Army Airfield Dec. 31. The party starts at 8 p.m. with plenty of food, music and party favors. Call mil 337-5750 or civ (0611) 705-5750 for tickets.

Holiday concert

Enjoy a free holiday concert by the United States Army Europe Band and Chorus at the Hainerberg Chapel Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.

Dexheim tree lighting

The Dexheim community tree lighting ceremony will be held Dec.

11 at 6 p.m. at the Anderson Barracks chapel. Plenty of activities, holiday music and free photos with Santa Claus will be available. For more information call mil 334-5204.

Spouses welcome at inprocessing

Spouses of soldiers are encouraged to attend inprocessing with their sponsor at the Welcome Center. Inprocessing is an important tool in integrating new soldiers and families into the Wiesbaden community. Classes include safety, Army Community Service and Army Family Team Building, education, force protection, beginning German and more. For more information call mil 337-5419 or civ (0611) 705-5419.

NFL Sundays at Victory Point

Check out the football games and an extensive bar menu, complete with made-to-order munchies, at the Victory Point Bar at the Wiesbaden Community Activity Center every Sunday from 5:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. For more information call mil 337-5750 or civ (0611) 705-5750.

Pre-separation briefings offered

The Army Career and Alumni Program offers pre-separation briefings and job assistance workshops Dec. 16-17. Soldiers leaving the military are required to attend a pre-separation briefing no later than 90 days before separation date; however, Soldiers are encouraged to begin as early as one year before ETS or two years before retirement. Spouses are always welcome to attend. For more information call mil 337-5709 or civ (0611) 705-5709.

Saturday APO hours

Both the Community Mailroom and Army Post Office will be open Saturdays, Dec. 13 and 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Regular APO hours at Wiesbaden Army Airfield are 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Wednesday and Friday, and from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday. The McCully Barracks APO is open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Dexheim APO is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Flu shots available

Free flu shots are available at the Immunization Clinic at Wiesbaden Health Clinic for civilians and family members. The Immunization Clinic is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8-11:30 a.m.; from 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; and from 1-5:30 p.m. Tuesday. Be sure to bring your shot records. For more information call the Wiesbaden Health Clinic at mil 337-6633/7413 or civ (0611) 705-6633/7413.

Breastfeeding support

La Leche League is an international organization dedicated to helping mothers breastfeed goals through mother-to-mother support and information. The Rhein Main area LLL meets the fourth Friday of the month at 10 a.m. at the USO Cottage in Hainerberg Housing. Call civ (06134) 188 825 for more information. Mothers with their nursing babies and mothers-to-be are always welcome.

Volunteers needed

Participate in the annual 221st Base Support Battalion Army Family Action Plan Feb. 4-6. Volunteers are needed to facilitate, transcribe and record issues throughout the conference. Training for positions begins Jan. 13. Free child care is available. For more information call mil 338-7721 or civ (0611) 380-7721.

Rothenburg trip

Join the Kontakt Club for a guided tour of the fortified city of Rothenburg Dec. 13. Cost is 30 euro

for adults and 25 euro for children. Call mil 337-5772, civ (0160) 612 3911 or (0160) 6555 976.

BOSS meetings

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets the first and third Thursday of each month in Room 210 at the Welcome Center at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

\$1 days are back

Team 221st fitness centers host \$1 aerobic classes throughout the month of December. Classes include group indoor cycling, step aerobics, turbokick kickboxing, mat/ball pilates, fitness and prenatal yoga, legs and butts n' guts. Classes are held at the Tony Bass Fitness Center, Dexheim Fitness Center and Hainerberg Elementary School. Call mil 337-5943 or civ (0611) 705-5943 for more information.

Trainers available

Personal trainers are available at the Tony Bass and Dexheim Fitness Centers to help customize a personalized fitness program. Cost is \$35 per session. For more information call mil 337-5943 or civ (0611) 705-5943.

Health packages

The Tony Bass Fitness Center offers Health and Wellness gift certificates for the holidays. A \$49 certificate offers a 30 minute Swedish massage, a personal training assessment and one aerobics class. A \$59 certificate offers a one hour Swedish massage, a personal training assessment and two aerobics classes. Certificates are valid through Feb. 14. For more information call mil 337-5541 or civ (0611) 705-5541.

Massages available

Massages by a certified massage therapist are now available at the Community Activities Center at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. To schedule an appointment call mil 337-5943 or civ (0611) 705-5943.

Bench press meet

The Tony Bass Fitness Center hosts a Benchpress competition Jan. 10. Registration begins at 9 a.m.; competition starts at 11 a.m. For more information call mil 337-5943 or civ (0611) 705-5943.

Child care at Army Post Office

Free child care is available at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Army Post Office from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily for customers doing postal business. Certified child care providers will be on hand with odds of activities to keep children busy.

Holidays highlight need for fire safety awareness

During the holiday season it is time to remember that traditional decorations can be potentially dangerous. The following precautions

should be taken to ensure the holiday season is a safe and happy one:
* Electrical wiring and connections used for Christmas tree

lights should be of standard commercial type, and the total wattage should not exceed the capacity of the circuit (normal circuit capacity is 3,000 watts). Electrical transformers should be disconnected when not in use.
* Live Christmas trees can be a significant fire hazard and require constant care. Before buying, check to see if the tree is fresh by striking the trunk against the

ground. If more than a few needles fall off then the tree is dry and could catch fire very easily.
* Once you have a fresh tree the trunk of the tree should be cut off diagonally at least one inch above the original cut and placed in a container of water immediately. Don't place the tree near a fireplace, radiator or any other heat source that could dry it out prematurely.

* Keeping the room temperature as low as possible will delay the rapid drying out of the tree. The water level in the container should be maintained above the butt end of the tree for the entire period of use.
* If you set up an illuminated tree in your quarters, support the energy conservation program and limit the number of hours the tree will be lit. *(Courtesy of the Wiesbaden Fire Department)*



Unattended cooking is the number one cause of fires in homes. Be aware of fire hazards in your home and enjoy this holiday season.

Post notes

Respite care can held

Tired? Need a break from the chores of parenting or work? Army Community Service's respite care may help you make it through the day.

The ACS Exceptional Family Member Program office maintains a list of providers who are trained and credentialed to provide respite care services for children and adults on an hourly, daily or weekly basis.

The cost of this service is arranged between the customer and provider. Customers can be assured they will receive care from a dependable, caring individual, motivated by a desire to serve family members with disabilities or who need a break from it all.

For more information call mil 485-8188 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

IACS made easy

The Installation Access Control System registration station for U.S. identification card holders is now co-located with the 90th Personnel Services Battalion identification card section in Building 8743, Room 37 (in the waiting room of the identification card section). For more information call mil 485-6083.

This move has eliminated the need for appointments to register with IACS. Customers can now register in IACS immediately after receiving a new identification card.

People replacing a stolen or lost identification card that was previously registered must reregister with their new card. Those who have not registered are encouraged to do so now and avoid long waiting periods when the Soldiers return.

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8-11:45 a.m. and 1-4:15 p.m. The office is closed on U.S. federal holidays.

The IACS station for installation passes remains at the same location in downtown Baumholder, Ausweiler Strasse 1. For pass information call mil 485-6291 and for more details about IACS registration call mil 485-7141.

Clinic appointments

The Baumholder Health Clinic has a new automated phone system that makes it easier for patients to make appointments. The system puts callers in a queue and tells them what order they are in and approximately how long they may have to wait to be helped.

The number for appointments is mil 485-8080 or civ (06783) 6-8080. For those who might be calling using the Siemens phones, these will not work on the system because they are seen as rotary phones and not touch tone. Callers should just stay on the line and they will be connected in the order that their call was received.

Dental assistants

Baumholder's American Red Cross is holding an orientation for community members interested in the Volunteer Dental Assistant Training Program Jan. 5 at 9 a.m. in the Red Cross building.

The orientation is mandatory for anyone interested in participating in the program. Interviews will follow Jan. 5 at 12:30 p.m. at the Dental Clinic, and the course begins Jan. 12. For information call civ (06783) 6-1760.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Almost like Mama used to make

A volunteer family member from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery, serves bread to a Soldier participating in the Army Community Service reintegration program for Soldiers returning from Iraq. The program includes a free meal for all Soldiers and their family members attending the program. ACS receives donations from various community organizations to help fund the weekly luncheon.

M1 tanks project power on Baghdad streets

Story and photo by
Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson
372nd Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

At the core of the 1st Armored Division's fighting force is the M1A1 Abrams tank and the Soldiers who operate it.

Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force 1st Armored Division, man the M1A1 with pride and have put the tanks out on the streets of central Baghdad to inspire courage in the allies and fear in the enemy.

Capt. William T. Cundy, Company A commander, regularly accompanies his Soldiers on evening patrols in the Abrams tanks through Zawra Park, Zawra Zoo and Ceremony Square in the Al Kindi and Al Harihiya districts of central Baghdad.

The company's area of responsibility is home to 15,000-25,000 people as well as several historical monuments and important Iraqi cultural sites.

"All the parades that Saddam used to do came under the 'Arches



Capt. William Cundy, tank commander (left to right), Sgt. Jermaine Brooks, gunner, Staff Sgt. Robert Tua, tank commander, and Spc. Brian Witt, gunner, with drivers Pfc. Chad Ace and Spc. Mark Carter (not pictured) from Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force 1st Armored Division, roll through the Arches of Victory at Zawra Park while on patrol in central Baghdad Nov. 14. Company A is tasked with guarding a number of historical sites in Baghdad, Iraq.

of Victory' and through Ceremony Square," said Cundy. "This is one of the main historical areas for the Iraqi people, and it is our job to make sure it stays in pristine condition."

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, an amphitheater-shaped structure located on the park grounds, commemorates Iraqi soldiers who

lost their lives in battle, said Cundy. The Arches of Victory, two massive sabers held by giant hands modeled after Saddam's, stand above the helmets of fallen Iranian soldiers killed in battle against the Iraqi army.

Cundy and his team said they enjoy patrolling the streets and

monument grounds in their Abrams tanks because it gives them an opportunity to get out and see Baghdad's people and its history.

"Almost 99.9 percent of the Iraqi people want safety and security and want their children to have a better life than they have," Cundy said. "Unfortunately, there is that 0.1 percent that wants to cause trouble. Fortunately, however, there have been no problems in the park."

As the tanks rumble down the city streets at speeds slow enough to allow a few seconds of eye contact with pedestrians, the Soldiers are met with a sea of stares. Even if the M1A1 were good for nothing else, it would still make one heck of a head-turner.

The stares soon turned to smiles as the Soldiers waved to the seemingly hypnotized people on the street seven feet below them. The people eagerly wave back and smile.

"It is definitely an attention getter," said 2nd Lt. Sean Lyons, fire support officer for Company A. "We patrol to let the people know that we are here making their homes and neighborhoods safe. They can see

us and they can see the M1A1."

According to Spc. Brian Witt, gunner on tank "Aloha," the Abrams' purpose is understood as a strong deterrent to any would-be attackers.

"We do not use the tanks really often," Witt said. "Only if there is a riot or major disturbance do we roll out. At this point, people do not really pay attention to Humvees."

With its menacing growl, gargantuan mass and the firepower to back it up, the Abrams is definitely a crowd pleaser in Company A's patrol area. Cundy said that his Soldiers know their tanks through and through and are proud to be able to ensure a secure future for the priceless monuments and landmarks, as well as the people, from behind the turret of the M1A1.

"The M1A1 Abrams is the premier battle tank in the world, and the American Soldiers are the best trained, best equipped troops in the world," Cundy said. "We are here to maintain a peaceful and stable Iraq, and if anyone wants to challenge that, my Soldiers are always ready."

Toys R Us makes military children smile

By Ignacio "Iggy"
Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Children really have something to smile about in Baumholder because they are getting their share of \$1 million worth of free toys.

That's the price tag on the amount of toys donated by Toys R Us through a partnership with Boys and Girls Clubs of America and sponsored by ABC's Good Morning America television show.

The toys are intended for children in all U.S. Army Europe communities, especially those with parents who may be deployed. Thousands of boxes filled with toys were received at the Army Child and Youth Services Headquarters in Heidelberg.

"As soon as I found out the toys were in I was one of the first people down there to get them," said Steve Ferguson, Baumholder Youth Service manager.

"We received roughly 400 boxes of toys that are being distributed by the Torch and Keystone Clubs

here," he said.

Numerous toys were handed out to children during the annual community tree lighting ceremony and more will be given away to children during the breakfast with Santa session Dec. 13 at the Neubrück Youth Center from 10 a.m. to noon.

"We are also looking at supporting several other activities during the holidays," said Ferguson.

"Very little distribution guidance was given. As long as they go to children affiliated with the military, they may be distributed in any manner that the community decides on," he said.

The Baumholder Community Spouses Club is also expected to receive some of the toys for their Angel Tree program. The toys will be used for unclaimed angel ornaments on the tree.

Community chapels are also in line to receive some of the toys to distribute to their congregations.

The toys are broken down into four categories by age group. There are toys for preschool, school age, middle school children and teens.



Photo by Jürgen Ruppenthal

Jacob Cox (left to right), Kevin Forehand and Alecia Lakley conduct an inventory of the 400 boxes of toys donated to Baumholder children by Toys R Us. The more than 740 toys range from board games to playdoh. Other children who assisted with the inventory were Ann Kelli Montano and Chelsea Brown.

1st AD gets sniper training while in Iraq

By Spc. Ryan Smith
372nd Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

For most people the U.S. Army Sniper School at Fort Benning, Ga., conjures up images of soldiers in camouflage sneaking through the densely wooded training grounds of western Georgia, learning to kill the enemy stealthily with high-powered rifles.

The rural woodlands of the southeastern United States are a far cry from the sun-scorched desert of Iraq, and cannot compare to the bustling urban setting of cities such as Baghdad. So, rather than sending troops to Fort Benning for sniper training, the 1st Armored Division has requested the school to come to Iraq.

Three sniper instructors from the school, a Mobile Training Team, have brought their weapons, equipment and other teaching materials to Baghdad, where they are training a group of 20 1st Armored Division sniper candidates.

Though MTTs are designed to travel to teach sniper students at locations away from Fort Benning, this is the first time an MTT has trained soldiers in a combat zone since the Vietnam War, according to Sgt. 1st Class Clark Swedberg, senior instructor for special projects at the U.S. Army Sniper School.

The advantages of bringing the school into the environment where units are conducting combat operations are clear, he said. Soldiers

have experienced the conditions of the environment and can use the sniper training to better react to situations they may encounter.

"The wind is a lot different here than at Fort Benning," Swedberg said.

"It makes a big difference for soldiers to learn to deal with it here where they will experience it later. We can identify any other problems and fix them now."

Swedberg said he's noticed another advantage to training snipers in this environment. "They're already in a combat frame of mind."

The sniper school is a five-week course when taught at Fort Benning, and the mobile course is about a week shorter, Swedberg said, but the students will be taught everything they would if they were taking the course stateside.

The sniper school is not just about shooting. The sniper candidates spend time in the classroom and in the field learning about reporting intelligence information, calling in close air support, mortars and artillery, and being an over watch for whatever element they are assigned to, Swedberg said.

"One of their biggest assets is in their ability to provide information from reconnaissance and observation," said Master Sgt. Alec Lazore, master gunner, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

Bringing the sniper school to



Photo by Spc. Ryan Smith

1st Armored Division sniper trainees take aim at targets to zero their rifles at a range near Baghdad.

Baghdad also serves to replenish critical warfighting skills, Lazore said.

"We've been here six months, and 1st Armored Division requested the school because we've lost trained Soldiers due to natural attrition like PCS and ETS (Permanent Change of Station and Expiration of Time in Service)," he said.

By replenishing snipers who are trained to operate in this environment, 1st Armored Division will be able to support its forces for the

remainder of their deployment here.

The sniper candidates' training has gone beyond simply learning to handle environmental conditions in Iraq.

As they went into a range in the desert outside Baghdad to zero their weapons Oct. 22, the snipers found themselves looking through their scopes at the remaining most wanted members of Saddam Hussein's regime, including Saddam himself.

The sniper instructors placed

wanted posters of the 55 most wanted on the targets the sniper students were to use for zeroing their weapons.

"It's a good thing," Lazore said. "It serves two purposes. The picture squares are perfect for the trainees to use to get a tight shot group. And it gives the Soldiers a chance to see the most wanted through a scope. Maybe one day these guys will get out there in the real world and see someone from that list through their scope."

Safety awareness helps drivers survive winter

The love affair between automobile owners and their "significant purchase" is about to go sour because car owners are neglecting the winter needs of their vehicles.

Driving in the winter means snow, sleet and ice that can lead to slower traffic, hazardous road conditions, hot tempers and unforeseen dangers. To help you make it safely through winter, here are some suggestions from the National Safety Council to make sure that you and your vehicle are prepared.

Weather

Regardless if it is 20 degrees Fahrenheit below zero or 90 degrees Fahrenheit above — weather affects road and driving conditions and can pose serious problems.

It is important to listen to forecasts on radio, TV, cable weather

channel or forecasts in the daily papers.

If inclement weather hits Baumholder, road conditions and other related announcements such as school or work delays will be announced on the new Baumholder Information Channel.

Your car

Prepare your car for winter. Start with a checkup that includes:

- Checking the ignition, brakes, wiring, hoses and fan belts.
- Changing and adjusting the spark plugs.
- Checking the air, fuel and emission filters, and the PCV valve.
- Inspecting the distributor.
- Checking the battery.
- Checking the tires for air, sidewall wear and tread depth.
- Checking antifreeze level and the freeze line.

Your car should have a tuneup (check the owner's manual for the

recommended interval) to ensure better gas mileage, quicker starts and faster response on pick-up and passing power.

Necessary equipment

An emergency situation on the road can arise at any time and you must be prepared. Following the tuneup, a full tank of gas and fresh anti-freeze, your trunk should carry:

- A properly inflated spare tire, wheel wrench and tripod-type jack
- A shovel
- Jumper cables
- Tow and tire chains
- A bag of salt or cat litter
- Tool kit.

Essential supplies

Be prepared with a survival kit that should always remain in the car. Remember to replenish it after each use. Essential supplies include:

- Working flashlight and extra batteries
- Reflective triangles and brightly-colored cloth
- Compass

- First aid kit
- Exterior windshield cleaner
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Wooden stick matches in a waterproof container

- Scissors and string/cord
- Nonperishable, high energy foods such as unsalted canned nuts, dried fruits and hard candy.

In addition, if you are driving long distances under cold, snowy, and icy conditions, you should also carry supplies to keep you warm such as heavy woolen mittens, socks, cap and blankets.

Don't get stranded

Do not leave your car unless you know exactly where you are, how far it is to possible help and are certain you will improve your situation.

To attract attention, light two flares and place one at each end of the car a safe distance away. Hang a brightly colored cloth from your antenna.

If you are sure the car's exhaust pipe is not blocked, run the engine and heater for about 10 minutes every hour or so depending upon the amount of gas in the tank.

To protect yourself from frostbite and hypothermia use the woolen items and blankets to keep warm.

Keep at least one window open slightly. Heavy snow and ice can seal a car shut. Eat a hard candy to keep your mouth moist.

For details call the 222nd Base Support Battalion Safety Office at mil485-1670 or civ (06783) 6-1670.



222nd BSB — Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg



Photo by Bernd "Bernie" Mai

That's just what I wanted

Alicia and Kasey West receive a surprise from the Weinnachtsmann (Christmas man) during an event sponsored by the city of Baumholder Fasching club and lifeguard association Nov. 30. More than 25 American children of deployed Soldiers and their family members were treated by these two organizations to an afternoon German-American children's Advent coffee. About 200 people attended this special event at the Brühlhalle that included treats for young and old, as well as an afternoon of entertainment.

Job corner

Positions available now

The following job positions are available in the Baumholder military community. The listing includes job title, grade and closeout date.

Job listings are also available online by visiting the Civilian Human Resource Management Agency website at www.chrma.hqusa.army.mil. For more local information call mil 485-6735.

Appropriated Fund positions

Motor vehicle operator (postal operations finance clerk), GS-5, Dec. 31, 2003.

Dental assistant, GS-2, 4, Dec. 31, 2003.

Motor vehicle operator (postal operations finance clerk), GS-5, Dec. 31, 2003.

Food service worker, GS-2, Dec. 31, 2003

Clinical nurse, GS-9, Dec. 31, 2003

Electronic tax filing clerk, GS-4, Dec. 31, 2003.

Nonappropriated Funds positions

Recreation aide, grade 1, Dec. 31, 2003.

Child and youth program assistant, grade 1, 2, close Dec. 31

Bar assistant, grade 2, Dec. 31

Food service worker, grade 3, 4, Dec. 31

Recreation aide, lifeguard, head

lifeguard, grade 1, Dec. 31

Cook, grade 4, 5, 6, Dec. 31.

Local National positions

Chambermaid/Zimmermädchen (part time, 30 hours per week), grade 3, Dec. 31

Wage group skilled positions — Gelernte Handwerksberufe, grade, 4, 5, 6, Dec. 31

Positions for kitchen personnel — Positionen für Küchenpersonal, grade 2, 3, 4, Dec. 31.

Employment orientation class

Take advantage of the employment orientation class offered at the Army Community Service office Dec. 16.

This class includes valuable insights into the employment opportunities in the Baumholder community and its surrounding area. Participants in this free class will receive information concerning military spouse preference, defining federal and private sector opportunities, application procedures, basic Resumix start-up information and volunteer possibilities. This class will equip family members with the tools and resources necessary to find employment within the community. Call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188 to reserve a space in this class.

Community

Rolling Hills Golf Course

Building 8888, Wetzel Housing
mil 485-7299

Stop in and get a frosty deal during the December winter sale. Throughout the month you can get great deals on putters, Nike golf clubs and other golf accessories.

Army Community Service

Building 8746, dispensary
mil 485-8188

Army Community Service is starting a new Toy and Book Exchange program for families arriving in the Baumholder community.

The Toy and Book Exchange program gives families the opportunity to come to ACS and get "new-to-you" items. A lot of toys and books are needed to get this program off the ground. Donations are gladly accepted at ACS Monday through Friday during normal business hours. For more information contact the Baumholder Army Community Service office.

Youth programs need volunteers

Baumholder's youth programs need your expertise, time and effort. The youth programs rely on volunteers for their existence. In the sports program, commissioners and coaches are needed as well as assistance with equipment maintenance. The centers need chaperones, instructors and program leaders. Do you have a special talent or skill? Come share your knowledge with the youth in our community. We need your assistance in making our programs a success. Teens can also volunteer. Contact your local youth center to learn how you can help.



Photo by Bernd "Bernie" Mai

Shoppers clad in traditional modern day attire shop for armor and pottery while vendors clad in medieval garb admire the polyester and digital cameras passing by during the first medieval market at Burg Lichtenberg.

Medieval market draws hundreds

Hundreds of modern day Christmas market goers were instantly transported back to days of yore during the first medieval Christmas market at the Burg Lichtenberg youth hostel Nov. 29 and 30.

Minstrel singers in colorful costumes playing a variety of stringed instruments mingled among knights, lords, peasants and tourists with digital cameras and camcorders, entertaining one and all.

"The effect was spectacular," said Bernd Mai, a visitor to the medieval market. "I feel like I've stepped back in time. The costumes are very authentic."

Burg Lichtenberg, the site of the market, was built in the 12th century.

It encompasses 423 square meters of land, making it one of the largest fortresses in Germany. It is one of the main attractions in the Kusel/Baumholder region and

its atmosphere of days gone by easily complemented this medieval spectacle.

Historical costumes and exhibits were a perfect backdrop for time travelers looking for that special Christmas gift. A variety of food specialties and drinks were available.

There was also a performance by the knights of Glantäler, complete with sword play, a fire-eater and falconry.